440

A MODEST ACCOUNT OF THE VVicked Life OF That Grand Impostor Lo. Mugleton.

WHEREIN

Is related all the Remarkable Actions he did, and all the strange Accidents have befallen him ever since his first coming to *London* to this 25*th*. of *Jan.* 1677.

ALSO

A particular of those Reasons which first drew him to these Damnable Principles.

With several Pleasant stories concerning him, proving his Commission to be but counterfiet, and himself a Cheat, from divers expressions which have fal'n from his own Mouth.

Licensed According to order.

London Printed for *B. H.* 1676.

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THE LIFE OF

Lodowick Muggleton.

Lodowick Muggleton was Born of Poor though Honest Parents, Living at *Chippenham* within 15. miles of *Briſtol*, his Relations having but little means and a great Charge of Children to maintain, they were forced to ſend their Daughters to wait on their Neighbouring Gentry, and to place their Sons to ſuch Trades as coſt little binding them Prentice; but amongſt all the Reſt of thoſe of this worſhipful Brood they were bleſt withal, they might have obſerved even in his Cunicular days, in this *Lodowick Muggleton* an obſtinate and diſſentious and oppoſive Spirit, which made them deſirous to ſettle him at ſome diſtance from them, and alſo to bind him to ſuch a Trade, and Maſter, as might curb him from that Freedom, which the Moroſeneſs of his Courſe Nature extorted from his too Indulgent Parents: by which means, as ſoon as he had made ſome ſmall inſpection into his accidence, without any other Accompliſhment beſides a little writing and caſting of Accounts, he was Hurried up to *London*, and there bound Prentice to one of the croſs Leg'd order, but of an Indifferent Reputation in the Place where he Lived, though by Trade a *Taylor*: we will paſs over the Parentheſis of his Youth in ſilence, therein being nothing but uſual Waggerys, which generally recommends to our expectation ſomething Remarkable,

when their useful extravagandies shall be seasoned with Age.

When the time of his Apprentiship grew near its expiration, so that he was admitted more Liberty then formerly was granted him, he was observed to be a great haunter of Conventicles, in so much, that there could not a discenting *Nonconformist* diffuse his Sedition in any obscure Corner of the City, but this *Lodowick Muggleton* would have a part of it; by which means continuing in the same Idle Curiosity, and taking great observation on that unknown Gain, many of that Canting Tribe got by their Deluded Auditors, he proposed to himself a certain and considerable Income to be got by the same Means, which he had observed many of those great Pretenders Gull both himself and others, for a Rookt Conventicler, like a Bankrupted Gamster, haveing for some time been *Cully'd* out of his Mony, learns the Trick, sets up Hector, and Trades for himself.

Thus did *Lodowick Muggleton* by sliding out of one Religion into another, so dissatisfy his Judgment, and ruining himself from the solid Basis of his first Principles, first degenerating from the Orthodox Tenets of the Church of *England*, to *Presbitery*, from thence to *Independancy*, thence to *Anabaptism*, thence to *Quakerism*, and lastly to no Religion at all.

When men have thus once Fooled themselves out of Religion and a good Conscience, it is no wonder that their seculer Interests draw them into all sorts of Impiety, and Prophaneness, as it has done this *Lodowick Muggleton*, who though in himself a poor silly despicable Creature, yet had that Confidence to think he had Parts Enough to Wheedle a Company of silly Credulous Profylites out of their Souls and Estates; and indeed he has had such admirable success in that wicked Enterprize, that though we

we can absolutely Conclude that he has Cheated them of the first; yet we can prove that if occasion were that he has defrauded them of the Latter, as has been often told him since the first day of his Standing in the Pillory.

It has been told already how this Impious Impostor lays claim to a Counterfiet Commission whereby he has infected the Truths of many Honest Ignorant People, with an Extraordinary power was delivered to him by as Infamous a Blasphemer as himself, *John Reeve*, who as he formerly Rivalled *Muggleton* in Impiety, had he been yet Living, shou'd certainly have Clubed with him in his deserved Punishment.

It is about 21. years since this Impudent Creature began his Impostures, who knowing himself defective of Reason as of Religion, made it one of the grand maxims of his Policie, for that his Proselites should be fully Perswaded contrary to all sence or Probability. Reason was that great Beast spoken of in the *Revelations*, and consequently not to be consulted with all, as to the examining of any Fundamental Point in *Religion*, whereby he secured both himself, and his Shallow Disciples, from all those frequent Disputations, and Arguings, which otherwise must necessarily have diverted them from adhereing to his damnable, impious, and irrational Tenets, which I purposely omit as being too unsufferably prophane for the modest Ear of any sober well meaning Christian.

But we may judg a little of the *Theorick* by the *Practick*, I mean of his Principles by his Practices, and of the soundness of his Doctrine, by those Dutys he held himself and his Followers oblieg'd unto in the Performance of it, which indeed were none at all, it being his usual custom when they met on the Sabbath day, to entertain them with a Pig of their own Sow, I mean with Wine, Strong-Drink, or Victuals, which either they sent in before hand,

or

or brought along with them, allowing them to be as Licencious as they Pleased, in all things that might gratify or indulge their Sences.

A Friend of mine was one Sunday walking in the Fields, and meeting there an old acquaintance of his, who was lately turn'd *Muggletonian*, with a young Baggage in his Hand, which he did more then suspect was Light, he could not forbare expressing his Admiration to this *Muggletonian* himself, in these or such like terms. 'I cannot 'but wonder to see you my old Neighbour, who have 'for these many years busied your self in the Study of 'Religion, and were not long since like to have gone Mad, 'because you knew not which Opinion to stick to. I say I 'cannot but wonder to see you abroad on the Sabbath 'day in this brisk posture, you are altered both in Countenance, Apparel, and Manners, so that I almost doubt 'who I speak to, ; Ah answered the Muggletonian, you 'know Friend, how I have heretofore troubled my selfe a-'bout Religion indeed, insomuch that it had almost cost me 'my life, but all in vain, till about 6. weeks since at which 'time I met with *Lodowick Muggleton*, who has put me into 'the easiest way to Heaven that ever was invented, for he 'gives us liberty provided we do but believe in his Com-'mission, freely to lanch into all those Pleasures which o-thers less knowing, call Vices, and after all, will assure us of Eternal Salvation, behold Reader what a sweet Religion here is like to be.

But as *Muggleton* was liberal in the Freedom he gave his adherents, so he was allways careful to avoid the Prohibitions of the Law, he generally appointed his Bubbles to meet in the Fields, where he also permited them to humour their sensualities with any Recreation, not excepting uncleanness it self; for which profaneing the Sabboth he was in *Oliver Crumwels* time Commited to *Newgate*,

Gate, where he had like to have been so dealt with at then, that Tyburn had saved the Pillory this trouble now: but that profidentus Usurper conscious to himself that *Muggleton* could not be a greater Impostor in Church, then he was in State, upon the Consideration of *Fraines in malis* Restord him to his Liberty.

How be it, a little before *Olivers* Death, *Muggleton* by continual Flateries had got into his Books, and amongst other Propheſies concerning him, had declared that *Oliver* ſhould perform more wonderful Actions then any he had yet Atchiev'd before he dyed. But he happening to depart this Life before he had done any thing elſe that was Remarkable, *Muggleton* was demanded why his Propheſie prov'd not True, he anſwered very wiſely, and like himſelf, *viz. That he was ſure* Oliver *would have performed them, had he liv'd long enough.*

But ſince his Gracious Majeſtys Return, he has driven on a much more Profitable Theological Cheat, having aſſumed the Liberty not only of Infuſing what Doctrine he pleaſed into the minds of his Ignorant deluded Followers, but writ ſeveral profane Books, which to his great advantage he has diſperſt among them, Poyſoning their minds thereby with a hodg podg of Rotten Tenets, whereby they are become uncapable of Reliſhing the more Sound, Wholſome, and undoubted *Principles* of the Church of *England*.

I ſhall conclude with one ſtory more concerning *Muggleton*, and ſo leave him to the cenſure of the Ingenious Reader. A Timeiſh Gentleman accooterd with Sword and Peruke, hearing the noyſe this Man cauſed in the Town

Town had a great desire to discourse with him, whom he found alone in his Study, and taking advantage of this occasion, he urged *Muggleton* so far, that knowing not what more to say, he falls to a solemn *Curse* of the Gentleman, who was so inrag'd thereat, that he drew his Sword, and Swore he would run him through immediately, unless he Recanted the Sentence of Damnation which he had presumptuously cast upon him, *Muggleton* perceiving by the Gentlemans looks that he really intended what he threatned, did not only recant his *Curse*, but pitifully intreated him whom he had *Cursed* before; by which we may understand the Invalidity both of him and his Commission.

Thus whoever considers the contents of *Muggletons* whole Life, will find it in toto, nothing but a continued Cheat of above 21. years long, which in the Catastrophe he may behold worthily rewarded with the modest Punishment of a Wooden Ruff or Pillory, his Gray Heirs guilded with Dirt and Rotten Eggs, and in fine himself brought by reason of his own Horrid and Irreligious Actions, into the greatest scorn and contempt imaginable, by all the Lovers of Piety, Discretion, or good Manners.

FINIS.